

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FUNDING FOR FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN (FTK)

Applying for additional funds for FTK in the General Fund:

Q: I just received the official email announcing that updated FY2008 Budget Data Sheets are available on the OPI website. Does this information include funding for full-time kindergarten?

A: No, districts must apply for additional FTK funding by completing form PAA-3, Section 6 and submitting it to OPI. Upon receipt, OPI will calculate the additional ANB and send the district an updated Budget Data Sheet for FY2008.

Q: When is the application for additional funding for FTK in FY2008 due?

A: Please submit the form by June 1, 2007. Forms can be accepted after this date; however, the district's official ANB and funding cannot be established to include FTK until the form is submitted and processed. With numerous forms to process in a very short time, OPI staff will greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Q: What signatures are required on the PAA-3 form?

A: The chairman of the board of trustees and the county superintendent must sign the PAA-3 form.

Q: How is the additional ANB for FTK actually calculated?

A: Based on the number of kindergarten students reported in October 2006 and February 2007, the ANB will be recalculated for each elementary budget unit to generate a revised current year ANB. For purposes of determining which ANB will generate the highest maximum budget, the difference between the revised current year ANB and the original (without FTK) current year ANB will be added to the original 3-year average ANB to generate a revised 3-year average ANB.

The district's maximum general fund budget and BASE budget will be recalculated using the current year ANB for all budget units or the 3-year average ANB for all budget units, whichever generates the greatest maximum general fund budget.

Q: Our district plans to offer a kindergarten program that meets all day, every other day. For example, we will have class on Mon/Wed/Fri of one week and Tues/Thurs the next week. Can we now get funding for FTK under this program?

A: The minimum aggregate hours required for a full-time kindergarten program is 720 hours of pupil instruction. If the program you've described will be conducted for at least 720 aggregate hours in the school year, then it would qualify for FTK funding. The minimum aggregate hours required for a half-time kindergarten program is 360 hours of pupil instruction.

Q: What does E1, E2, E3, etc. mean? Do I need to fill in a percentage in each of these to get my FTK funding?

A: Each elementary district has at least one elementary ("E") budget unit. Some districts have more than one budget unit so they are broken down by E1, E2, etc. For each budget unit of a district, a percentage must be entered if FTK will be offered in FY2008. (If you don't know how many budget units your district has, refer to your Budget Data Sheet or last year's budget form.)

Q: When a district offers only a full-time kindergarten program, how is the percentage determined?

A: For implementation of the FTK program, the percentage is determined based on the program offered. Therefore, if the district only offers a full-time program, the percentage is 100, even though some students enroll part-time. In subsequent years, ANB funding will be based on actual enrollment counts.

Q: My district plans to offer FTK in 3 of our 5 elementary schools in FY2008. What percentage should I use on the PAA-3 form?

A: The percentage should be calculated by dividing the number of kindergarten students anticipated to be offered FTK in FY2008 divided by the total number of kindergarten students anticipated to enroll in a kindergarten program in FY2008.

Q: My district plans to phase in FTK. We anticipate offering 20% in FY2008, another 50% in FY2009 and the final 30% in FY2010. Do we have to file the form PAA-3 every year in order to get additional FTK funding?

A: OPI understands that implementation of FTK will vary among school districts. Partial implementation over more than one year is not clearly addressed in the new legislation passed in the special session. OPI will develop and determine policy over the next year to address transition issues and will notify school districts accordingly as these decisions are made.

Q: My district has been offering FTK for the past 3 years. We also offer a half-time program, which meets in the morning. Last year, there were 5 students enrolled in the half-time program and 35 students enrolled in the full-time program. At this time, we do not have exact numbers for enrollment in FY2008. What percentage should we use on the form?

A: If the kindergarten program offered for FY2008 is similar to the program offered in FY2007, divide 35 students enrolled in the full-time program by 40 total kindergarten students enrolled in both programs, which would be 88%.

Q: Do I have to answer 6B on the PAA-3 form if we didn't have FTK this year (FY2007)?

A: Yes.

Q: My district won't implement FTK until FY2009. Do I need to fill out the PAA-3 form now? Also, is there any way we can receive the one-time-only start up costs in FY2008 so we can remodel our building to accommodate FTK?

A: If your district will not offer a full-time kindergarten program in FY2008, it is not necessary to submit a PAA-3 form now. However, a district may apply for the one-time-only start-up costs and receive the funds in FY2008 for use in implementing FTK prior to July 1, 2012. OPI will make a form available for the district to indicate its intent to offer FTK prior to July 1, 2012. Upon receipt of the completed form, OPI will release the kindergarten start-up monies to the district.

If the district intends to offer FTK in FY2009, submit a form PAA-3, Section 6 to OPI in spring 2008 for an enrollment increase for FY2009.

One-Time-Only (OTO) Payment for Start-up Costs for Full-Time Kindergarten

Q: How do I apply for the one-time-only start-up costs for implementing FTK? How much can I expect to receive and when will OPI distribute the money?

A: When OPI receives a signed copy of form PAA-3, Section 6 from the school district, the OTO payment for kindergarten start-up costs will be calculated. It is estimated that this payment will be approximately \$971 per kindergarten student reported to OPI in October 2006 (fall enrollment count). OPI will distribute the money in August 2007.

For those districts that do not implement FTK in FY2008, OPI will make a form available for the district to indicate its intent to offer FTK prior to July 1, 2012. Upon receipt of the completed form, OPI will calculate and pay the one-time-only kindergarten start-up monies to the district.

Q: What fund will be used to account for the OTO kindergarten start-up money?

A: The OTO kindergarten start-up payment will be deposited to the elementary district's Miscellaneous Programs Fund (15).

Q: My district has been offering FTK for the past 3 years. Are we entitled to receive the one-time-only start-up costs? What can we spend the start-up costs on if we already have FTK?

A: The law doesn't specify the allowable or unallowable costs associated with the development of a full-time kindergarten program. Any costs related to or resulting from implementation of full-time kindergarten would be allowable, including addition or remodeling of classrooms, equipping a classroom, supplies and materials purchases, teacher training or even costs associated with moving other grades to a different building to make room for FTK.